



Simple Rules for Safe Ghouls

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MADISON – Here come the ghosts and goblins...Halloween is on the way! The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) offers some common sense costume tips to help make Halloween a safe event for little princesses, monsters, superheroes and more.

Before you design or shop for a Halloween outfit for your child, use these three simple rules as a guideline for safely dressing your child for Halloween parades and trick-or-treating:

Step One – *Prevent fires and burns*

- Select materials with a flame-resistant label when buying or making costumes and accessories. Although this label does not mean these items won't catch fire, it does indicate that the items will resist burning and should extinguish quickly once removed from the ignition source.
- Avoid costumes that are billowy and baggy to minimize the risk of the fabric catching a flame.

Step Two – *See and be seen*

- Trim costumes and outerwear in reflective tape to make the child more visible to passing vehicles.
- Make sure that everyone in your party has a flashlight with fresh batteries when trick-or-treating after dusk.
- Consider buying glow sticks, necklaces or bracelets for the children in your group. They are fun for kids, last hours after activation and make the child visible to drivers and other groups sharing the sidewalk.
- Talk to children ahead of time about staying on the sidewalk and waiting for an adult before crossing the street.

Step Three – *Fit for Safety*

- Adjust costumes to ensure a good fit during the neighborhood walk. Long skirts or capes can catch on bushes or decorations and are a tripping hazard. Children should wear well-fitting, sturdy shoes.
- Secure hats, scarves and masks to ensure adequate visibility and ventilation.
- In case of falls, make sure costumes do not include any sharp or pointed objects like toy swords, knives or pitchforks.

An additional safety tip for homeowners: if you leave a lit jack-o-lantern on the porch while kids are trick-or-treating, consider using battery-operated candles or glow sticks instead of open-flame candles to protect the children and your property.

For additional information, visit the Consumer Protection Bureau at datcp.wisconsin.gov, call the Consumer Information Hotline at 800-422-7128 or send an e-mail to datcp hotline@wisconsin.gov.

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